

“The Earth on Turtle’s Back” (Onondaga)
“When Grizzlies Walked Upright” (Modoc)
from The Navajo Origin Legend (Navajo)
from the Iroquois Constitution (Iroquois)

Selection Test A

Critical Reading *Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.*

- ___ 1. “The Earth on Turtle’s Back,” “When Grizzlies Walked Upright,” and *The Navajo Origin Legend* are origin myths. What are origin myths?
- A. stories about talking animals
 - B. stories about ancient people
 - C. stories that explain how life began
 - D. stories that explain the present day
- ___ 2. “The Earth on Turtle’s Back” tells how something came to exist. What is it that grew on Turtle’s back?
- A. the sky
 - B. the earth
 - C. the sea
 - D. the woman
- ___ 3. From reading “The Earth on Turtle’s Back,” you can tell that the Onondaga value certain things in their culture. Which two of these items do they value?
- I. animals
 - II. clouds
 - III. riches
 - IV. dreams
- A. I and III
 - B. II and IV
 - C. II and III
 - D. I and IV
- ___ 4. What part of the natural world is explained by “When Grizzlies Walked Upright”?
- A. how the earth came to be
 - B. how Indians came to be
 - C. how snow came to be
 - D. how ice came to be

- ___ 5. According to “When Grizzlies Walked Upright,” why do the Modocs never kill grizzly bears?
- A. The grizzlies are their ancestors.
 - B. The grizzlies are endangered.
 - C. The grizzlies are magical.
 - D. The grizzlies are too fierce.
- ___ 6. Which of the following would be a good title for the excerpt from *The Navajo Origin Legend*?
- A. “Gods of Corn”
 - B. “The Wind Gives Life”
 - C. “The Feather of Life”
 - D. “Corn and Buckskin”
- ___ 7. In *The Navajo Origin Legend*, the ears of corn are laid out facing east and west. What part of the natural world does this arrangement represent?
- A. the shapes of the moon
 - B. the mirages of the desert
 - C. the rising and setting of the sun
 - D. the direction of the wind
- ___ 8. What does *The Navajo Origin Legend* describe?
- A. the first marriage
 - B. the first corn crop
 - C. the creation of the gods
 - D. the creation of the wind
- ___ 9. Which of the following statements best describes the excerpt from the Iroquois Constitution?
- A. It tells about Iroquois culture.
 - B. It praises the Creator.
 - C. It deals with the Iroquois government.
 - D. It records the deeds of the Iroquois lords.
- ___ 10. According to the Iroquois Constitution, whose welfare is considered to be most important?
- A. the Iroquois lords’
 - B. future generations’
 - C. that of people outside the Five Nations
 - D. that of Dekanawidah (the speaker)

- ___ 11. What is the Iroquois attitude toward outsiders, according to the Iroquois Constitution?
- A. Outsiders are never welcome.
 - B. Outsiders who bring gifts are welcome.
 - C. Outsiders who believe in peace are welcome.
 - D. Outsiders who join one of the Five Nations are welcome.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- ___ 12. In which sentence is the meaning of the word *protruded* best described?
- A. The Sky Spirit's daughter stuck her head up above the smoke hole.
 - B. The Woman from the Sky fell through the hole left by the Great Tree.
 - C. The grizzlies raised the girl as if she were one of their own cubs.
 - D. The First Man and the First Woman were created from ears of corn.
- ___ 13. Which sentence is a compound sentence?
- A. The flowers and grass sprang up all over.
 - B. The seeds were planted, and flowers grew.
 - C. Trees and grass springing up on the earth.
 - D. The seeds fell to the earth and soon sprouted.

Essay

14. In "The Earth on Turtle's Back," the Ancient Chief uproots the Great Tree. Was that a good idea? Why or why not? In an essay, explain your response. Cite at least two details from the myth to support your opinion.
15. In "When Grizzlies Walked Upright," the Chief of the Sky Spirits condemns all the Grizzlies and their descendants. He says that they must walk on four feet and may never talk again. Do you think the chief was too harsh? Do you think he had a good reason to do what he did? In an essay, explain your response. Cite at least two details from the myth to support your opinion.